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Request for the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session

Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations

Letter dated 4 October 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly of an additional item of an important and urgent nature, entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations".

In view of the importance of the issue, and your own stated intention to follow up on the outcome of the meeting, I believe it would be appropriate to allocate the item both to the plenary and to the First Committee of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the present request is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum (see annex).

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

1. At the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations, held in New York on 24 September 2010, there was widespread recognition of the importance of multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations. At the same time, broad concern was expressed about the current status of the multilateral disarmament machinery, in particular the impasse at the Conference on Disarmament, which is hurting its credibility and calling into question its relevance.

2. At the meeting, constructive discussions were held on how to improve the effectiveness of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament. It was widely recognized that the current stagnation in multilateral negotiations could be ascribed to a lack of political will, as well as to perceived deficiencies in the disarmament machinery. A number of speakers called for a comprehensive assessment of the machinery, including the review of the working methods of the existing multilateral disarmament bodies. Many speakers stressed the urgent need to immediately start negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, as well as to begin substantive work on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and preventing an arms race in outer space.

3. Many Member States stressed that the high-level meeting should not be a one-time event and that substantive follow-up actions were required to ensure that it marked both a continuation of the series of successful meetings in the field of disarmament over the past year and an important step towards the revitalization of the work of the multilateral disarmament machinery, and in particular of the Conference on Disarmament. There were also calls for such follow-up to be an inclusive process, driven by States Members of the United Nations.

4. It is the special responsibility of the Secretary-General, as convener and Chair of the high-level meeting, to ensure that the calls for immediate and substantive follow-up are heeded. As indicated during the meeting, the Secretary-General will ask the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to undertake a thorough review of the issues raised at the meeting, with special focus on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament. On the basis of its recommendations, the Secretary-General will consider further action, including the convening of a high-level panel of eminent persons. Many of the issues discussed at the meeting, however, call for deliberations in the General Assembly.

5. For the foregoing reasons, the Secretary-General requests the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Follow-up to the high-level meeting held on 24 September 2010: revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations".